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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/752,422 | | WILLIAMS ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | | Art Unit | |
| | AHMED ELALLAM | | 2662 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 12/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-24, 26, 30-32, 34-36 and 38.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 31 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date <u>5/9/2005</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date <u>Attached</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|--|


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Kirk D. Williams on June 07, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

Claims 25, 33 and 37 have been cancelled.

Claim 23:

On line 3, the term --output-- has been added before the word "packets".

On line 7, the term "and" has been deleted.

On line 8, the phrase --placing input packet containing the barrier state transition request in at least each of the output queues that are occupied by at least one output packet; and-- has been added.

On line 10, the term --output-- has been added after the word "sending".

Claim 24:

On line 1, after "sending", the term --output-- has been added.

On line 2, after "sending", the term "a" has been changed to --said input--.

Claim 31:

On line 4, the term --output-- has been added before the word "packets".

On line 8, the term "and" has been deleted.

Between lines 8 and 9, the phrase --placing input packet containing the barrier state transition request in at least each of the output queues that are occupied by at least one output packet; and-- has been added.

On line 9, after "sending", the term "a" has been changed to --said input--.

Claim 32:

On line 1, after "sending", the term --output-- has been added.

On line 2, after "sending", the term "a" has been changed to --said input--.

Claim 35:

On line 3, the term --output-- has been added before the word "packets".

On line 8, the term "and" has been deleted.

Between lines 8 and 9, the phrase --means for placing input packet containing the barrier state transition request in at least each of the output queues that are occupied by at least one output packet; and-- has been added.

On line 9, the term --output-- has been added after the word "sending".

Claim 36:

On line 1, the term --output-- has been added after the word "sending".

On line 2, after "sending", the term "a" has been changed to --said input--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of records fail to teach or suggest the followings:

A method/ or apparatus for switching data packets in a switching system comprising at least a switching element (source or destination) that maintain an operational state until each of output queues receives state transition requests, wherein the operational state of the switching element is updated upon receiving input packets containing the state transition request by each output queues, as indicated in independent claims 21, 23, 30, 31, and 35.

The invention has the advantage of reducing the reassembling and processing of packets to be forwarded to similar component within the switching system.


3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AHMED ELALLAM whose telephone number is (571) 272-3097. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kizou Hassan can be reached on (571) 272-3088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AHMED ELALLAM
Examiner
Art Unit 2662
June 10, 2005


JOHN PEZZLO
PRIMARY EXAMINER